



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

Raised Bill No. 5139

LCO No. 870



Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:
(PD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF STATE FUNDS FOR THE
INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS ON PRIME FARMLAND.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 16-245n of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2014*):

4 (c) There is hereby created a Clean Energy Fund which shall be
5 within the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority. The fund
6 may receive any amount required by law to be deposited into the fund
7 and may receive any federal funds as may become available to the
8 state for clean energy investments. Upon authorization of the Clean
9 Energy Finance and Investment Authority established pursuant to
10 subsection (d) of this section, any amount in said fund may be used for
11 expenditures that promote investment in clean energy in accordance
12 with a comprehensive plan developed by it to foster the growth,
13 development and commercialization of clean energy sources, related
14 enterprises and stimulate demand for clean energy and deployment of
15 clean energy sources that serve end use customers in this state and for

16 the further purpose of supporting operational demonstration projects
17 for advanced technologies that reduce energy use from traditional
18 sources, except that no such expenditures may be made on any
19 photovoltaic energy system that is to be installed on prime farmland,
20 as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture. Such
21 expenditures may include, but not be limited to, providing low-cost
22 financing and credit enhancement mechanisms for clean energy
23 projects and technologies, reimbursement of the operating expenses,
24 including administrative expenses incurred by the Clean Energy
25 Finance and Investment Authority and Connecticut Innovations,
26 Incorporated, and capital costs incurred by the Clean Energy Finance
27 and Investment Authority in connection with the operation of the
28 fund, the implementation of the plan developed pursuant to
29 subsection (d) of this section or the other permitted activities of the
30 Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority, disbursements from
31 the fund to develop and carry out the plan developed pursuant to
32 subsection (d) of this section, grants, direct or equity investments,
33 contracts or other actions which support research, development,
34 manufacture, commercialization, deployment and installation of clean
35 energy technologies, and actions which expand the expertise of
36 individuals, businesses and lending institutions with regard to clean
37 energy technologies.

38 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 16-245aa of the 2014 supplement to
39 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
40 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

41 (b) The Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority, in
42 consultation with the Department of Energy and Environmental
43 Protection, the Department of Economic and Community
44 Development and the State Treasurer, shall establish a renewable
45 energy and efficient energy finance program. Said authority shall make
46 grants, investments, loans or other forms of financial assistance under
47 said program to projects for the purchase and installation of (1)
48 renewable energy sources, including solar energy, geothermal energy,

49 thermal energy storage, electric storage and fuel cells or other energy-
 50 efficient hydrogen-fueled energy, or (2) energy-efficient generation
 51 sources, including units providing combined heat-and-power
 52 operations with greater than sixty-five per cent efficiency or such
 53 higher efficiency level as said authority may prescribe, except that the
 54 authority shall not make any form of financial assistance available for
 55 the purchase or installation of a photovoltaic energy system that is to
 56 be installed on prime farmland, as defined by the United States
 57 Department of Agriculture. Said authority may make grants under
 58 said program of up to two and one-half per cent of the balance in the
 59 account to support workforce development initiatives in connection
 60 with deployment of the projects. Said authority shall give priority to
 61 applications for grants, investments, loans or other forms of financial
 62 assistance to projects that use major system components manufactured
 63 or assembled in Connecticut. Each grant, investment, loan or other
 64 form of financial assistance shall be in an amount that makes the cost
 65 of purchasing, installing and operating the renewable energy or
 66 energy-efficient generation source competitive with the grid's or other
 67 end users' current electricity expenses.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	16-245n(c)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	16-245aa(b)

Statement of Purpose:

To discourage the installation of solar panels on prime farmland.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]